



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release TO PMS OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1943.

One of the Navy's newer submarines, the Pilotfish, goes its sister vessels two better--it is named for three fishes at once, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

The three fishes which bear the name "Pilotfish" are alike only in that respect. Most interesting is a ~~small~~ fish with a pneumatically adhesive disc on the top of its head. By means of this disc it affixes itself to larger fish, particularly sharks, and thus travels without effort on its own part.

Another Pilotfish is a medium-sized species, trim, elongate, resembling an amber-jack, but with black cross bands. The third is the so-called Menominee whitefish or round whitefish of the Great Lakes.

U.S. submarines are named for fish by Presidential directive and the Navy frequently has asked the Fish and Wildlife Service to suggest suitable names. A good many names have already been used but the submarine program would have to be considerably expanded in order to use up all the names of American fishes.

Many species are, of course, not sufficiently well known to have anything but scientific names such as *Xystroplites pallidus*, but about a thousand do have common names. As a matter of fact, experts point out, there are far more names than there are species of fish. This comes about because some species are known by several different names; the sunfish, for instance, not only has its scientific name but 25 others.